



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

Room 029 State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203-1784  
(303) 866-3521 • FAX: 866-3855 • TDD: 866-3472  
[www.colorado.gov/lcs](http://www.colorado.gov/lcs)  
E-mail: [lcs.ga@state.co.us](mailto:lcs.ga@state.co.us)

---

**M E M O R A N D U M**

December 12, 2016

**TO:** Interested Persons

**FROM:** Kerry White, Principal Fiscal Analyst, (303) 866-3469

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Analysis of Bills with Impacts to the Department of Corrections

This memorandum outlines the costs and assumptions used in the fiscal analysis of bills at the 2017 legislative session that have impacts to the Department of Corrections.

**Prison beds**

Current law prohibits the General Assembly from passing any bill to increase periods of imprisonment in state correctional facilities without appropriating an amount sufficient to cover the increased capital construction and operating costs of the bill in each of the first five fiscal years. However, current law also allows the Department of Corrections (DOC) to place offenders classified as medium custody and below in private contract prisons, for which no state capital construction costs are incurred.

Offenders sentenced under a bill to DOC may be placed in either a state-run or a private contract prison, depending on several factors. Any offenders that must be housed in a state-run prison will likely require a shift of other inmates in that facility to private contract prisons. Therefore, fiscal notes assumes that the impact of a bill with a DOC impact will be accommodated through the use of private contract prisons, and that no new capital construction funds are necessary.

Offenders placed in a private contract prison cost the state about \$60.00 per offender per day, including the current daily rate of \$56.02 and an estimated \$3.98 per offender per day for medical care provided by the DOC. For offenses committed on or after the effective date of the bill, no impact is shown in the first year because of the estimated time for criminal filing, trial, disposition, and sentencing. Length of stay calculations are based on the average length of stay for the group of offenders convicted of an offense in the same felony class and leaving prison in the prior calendar year.

**Parole**

The fiscal note shows parole costs based on the average length of stay for the group of offenders convicted in Colorado of an offense in the same felony class and leaving parole in the prior calendar year. The cost per day for supervising an offender on parole is \$16.75.